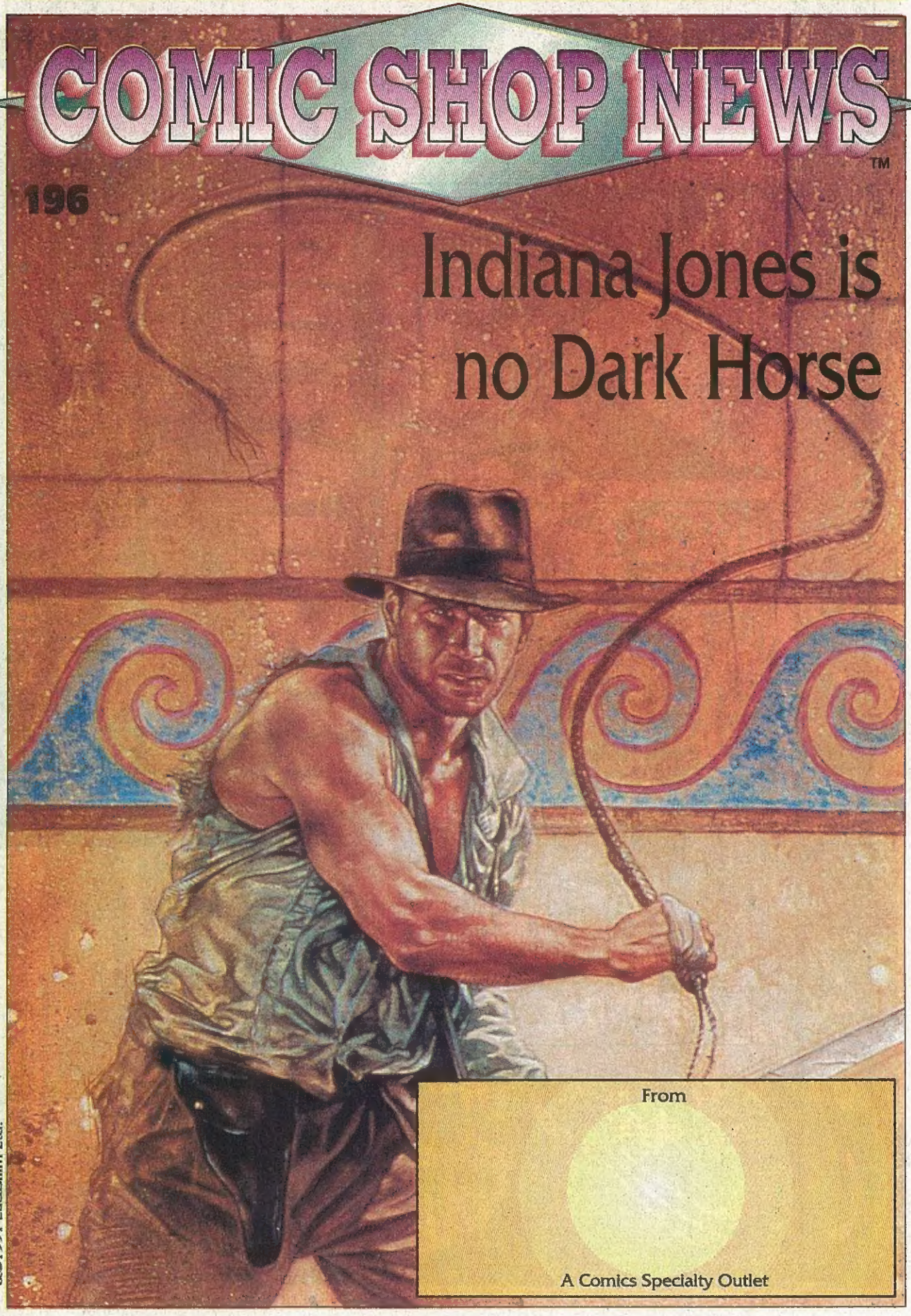
BOB HARRAS REVEALS X-MEN'S FUTURE

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

196

Indiana Jones is no Dark Horse



From

A Comics Specialty Outlet

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Marvel Hopes to Make Comics Fans X-Fans

Last year, Marvel made the first issue of Spider-Man a major event by offering two different covers and both a bagged and unbagged edition of each (they followed it up with a gold-cover second printing). This year, Marvel has different plans for the debut issues of its two mutant titles, ***X-Force*** (shipping in June) and ***X-Men*** (shipping in August)--but the general idea behind it all is the same: create maximum excitement, making the release of these new books the major event of the summer.

X-Force #1, scheduled for June 27th release, features the heroes formerly known as the New Mutants; this book will pick up where ***New Mutants #100*** left off. Just in case fans forgot what happened in ***New Mutants #100,*** Marvel will reprint that 48-page issue a week prior to ***X-Force #1***.

Every copy of ***X-Force #1*** will ship pre-bagged--for a good reason. Late last year, when Marvel released the first issues of its two Barbie titles, it shipped them all pre-bagged so that each comic book could come with a bonus collectible item. The same strategy is being used for ***X-Force #1***: Marvel has contracted with Impel (the company who made the Marvel trading cards) to produce five special X-Force trading cards . Each pre-bagged copy of the comic book will come with one of the five cards. According to Skip Dietz of Marvel, "Customers will be able to see the cards so they can pick and choose the cards they want, or they can make sure that they have the whole set. The different cards will be distributed evenly throughout each shipment, so each store will get approximately the same amount of each card."

X-Men™ & ©1991 Marvel Comics

Two months later, the Mutant Genesis culminates with ***X-Men #1***, the book that is certain to be the Big Event of 1991. Plans for this issue haven't been finalized yet, but one idea being given serious consideration is a variation on the multiple-cover concept. Instead of offering different-colored covers, as Marvel offered on ***Spider-Man #1,*** the publisher is considering offering four different cover illustrations (all by Jim Lee), shipping one cover per week for four weeks in August. Bob Harras, editor of ***X-Men***, said, "We've talked about it, and it looks very possible, but it isn't definite yet. I've talked with Jim about it, though, and we've decided that if we do that, with four different cover illustrations for the same book, each edition will have some new material inside as well--perhaps new pin-ups in the back, so that each edition is unique in some other way than just different covers."

by WAYNE LEE

It's a Landslide!

Well, the votes are in on whether we should keep running the Sunday *Turtles* puzzles and it wasn't even close. ***CSN*** received over 200 hundred responses and all but two were "no" votes. While the daily strips remain very popular, readers would rather see the space the Sunday puzzles took up for more editorial material. Again, we are continuing the daily *Turtles* strips (as well as the daily and Sunday *Batman* strips, natch) and if they ever switch from puzzles and fan art to comic strips, we'll re-add the Sunday strip.

We also heard from several readers who wished that we'd go back to running the strips at the old, larger size. The only way we could fit a second strip into an eight page issue was to shrink them down. However, starting with ***CSN*** 208, we're going to start doing some larger issues. As a result, we will be able to increase the size of both the *Batman* and *Turtles* strips to the old, larger size! We're also going to be able to expand our news and other features. It is all part of our ongoing effort to keep improving ***Comic Shop News.*** Thanks to those who voted and keep those cards and letters coming, we don't have space for a letters column but that doesn't mean that we don't love to get mail.

by WARD BATTY

The Odds Look Good For Mutomaniac

What do you do with a secret agent who knows too much? Well, you can let him retire and assume that he'll keep his secrets--or you can send him to an out-of-the-way place and see to it that he has no contact with the outside world. The latter scheme seemed to work for ***The Prisoner***--and it should work *equally* well for Ross, a mutomaniac the government can afford to release.

The plans sounds find--but Ross has the ability to make the best-laid plans go awry. That's his talent: he's a synchron. Ross has the ability to collapse the probability wave functions of random events. What does that mean in practical terms? Well, it means that when you try to do harm to Ross, things go wrong. Very wrong. If you try to shoot him, the gun doesn't work. But when Ross picks the gun up, it functions perfectly.

Quite a talent...

Mutomaniac, a 52-page prestige-format one-shot from Apocalypse Comics, is the story of Ross, the mutomaniac that the Corporation wants dead. If only they could figure out how to achieve that goal...

Pat Mills, writer of ***Marshal Law***, joins forces with ***Last American*** artist Mike McMahon to tell the story of Ross' escape from the prison asteroid. With five other prisoners, he breaks

Mutomaniac™ & ©1990 Mills & McMahon

free and heads into hyperspace, re-emerging in the path of a tractor beam that draws him to a space-travelling slaughterhouse whose captain is hot on the trail of the legendary space monster Leviathan. This is bad news indeed for Captain Greeg, who soon learns that his ship may become a slaughterhouse of a very different sort... ***Mutomaniac,*** priced at $5.95, is scheduled for late March release.

by WAYNE LEE

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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Jeremiah's Ready For Adventure

In the past few years, American fans have become much more aware of the large number of top-flight talents creating comics in countries other than the United States. Names like Moebius, Katsuhiro Otomo, Marvano, Milo Manara, and Alcatena are now readily recognized by American comics fans. Adventure Comics is ready to add a new name to that list beginning in April: Hermann.

Hermann may be new to many American fans, but he's certainly not new to comics artists. Dave Gibbons, artist of ***Watchmen*** and ***Give Me Liberty***, said "Hermann has the ability to hit you right between the eyes with pictorial compositions of such startling potency that they take your breath away." Joe Kubert, acclaimed artist of ***Enemy Ace, Sgt. Rock, Tor***, and dozens of other comics, said "His ability to write and illustrate with clarity, emotion and impact has given great please to the general public and fellow professionals alike." And ***Groo*** creator Sergio Aragones sums it up by saying, "Hermann's storytelling cannot be duplicated. Hermann is just the best!"

Jeremiah™ & ©1990 Strip Art Features

While American creators rave about Hermann and fans around the world by his books in the hundreds of thousands of copies, few Americans have ever had a chance to see his work. Outside of a few small graphic album editions, there has been no widely available Hermann project before Adventure's upcoming two-issue apocalyptic adventure series ***Jeremiah: Birds of Prey.***

Set in a post-holocaust United States, Jeremiah follows a young man named Jeremiah and his rogue partner, Kurdy. Soon, the two of them are forced to confront a slaver, Fat-Eye Birmingham, who will either make Jeremiah his slave--or kill him!

Jeremiah: Birds of Prey, a two-issue limited series, will be released in April. Each issue is priced at $2.50, giving fans a chance to find out, at a bargain price, what some of the best creators in the comic book industry already know.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Indy's Russian In Where Others Fear to Tread

The ***Indiana Jones*** films have taken Indy into some pretty exotic locales, but his quest for the whereabouts of the long-lost continent of Atlantis are going to take him into one place he hasn't visited thus far: Russia. In ***Indiana Jones #2,*** a May release from Dark Horse, Indy and his companion, Sophia Hapgood head into the Soviet Union as part of their round-the-world quest for clues as to the final resting place of the Lost Continent. Those of you who think the book will be too dull without the ever-present Nazis needn't worry, though; they'll be on hand as well, pursuing Indy and Sophia in claim Atlantis' treasures for themselves. ***Indiana Jones,*** a bi-monthly four-issue limited series written by Bill Messner-Loebs and illustrated by Dan Barry and Karl Kesel, should debut on the stands at almost the same time as you read this.

by LANNY LATHEM

The Incredible Space Hulk Meets the Terminators

Games Workshop is expanding out their ***Space Hulk*** game so that a whole new realm of adventure can be added, with the new ***Space Hulk Terminator Missions.*** This new expansion calls for Terminators to go onto derelict space cruisers and hunt down anything that might be living on the ship--and live up to their name! The possible enemies for this $22.95 book include the Genestealers, Traitor Marines, and Tyrannids. So suit up and get ready, because new ***Space Hulk*** adventures are lurking just around the corner.

by BRETT BROOKS

NEWS BRIEFS

FOILED AGAIN– FOR THE FIRST TIME!

Silver Surfer #50, slated for April release, is sure to be quite a landmark release. Not only is it a gala fiftieth issue, but it also kicks off the events of this year's mega-series ***The Infinity Gauntlet*** by **Jim Starlin** and **George Perez**. Well, a special issue like that deserves some extra-special treatment; that's why Marvel will offer its first-time-ever foil-stamped cover on ***Silver Surfer #50***. This won't be another metallic-ink cover; we're talking real foil stamping, like has been used in comics very occasionally by First and DC (you'll also find it on the covers of numerous paperbacks). Marvel will offer the silver-foil ***Silver Surfer #50*** at the standard price, making it a very inexpensive landmark issue indeed.

THIS GUY'S A *REAL* CUT-UP...

You know your town is in for some trouble when the demon who's dropped in for a visit has a name that translates to "slaughterhouse." Apricot Corners is a comfortable little town that usually appreciates company--but this is one visitor they're not too fond of hosting.

When this demonic menace brings his reign of terror to Apricot Corners, the citizens aren't too happy--not only the living citizenry, but the dead as well. In ***Slaughtertown USA***, the citizens who died at the demon's hands come back as zombies, seeking their revenge...and imagine how this looks to the unfortunate vacationers who are caught in the middle! ***Slaughtertown USA #1***, an April release from Innovation Comics, is written by **Dan Tyree** and illustrated by **Lorraine Szramski** and **Adrian Kleinbergen**. The black-and-white horror one-shot is priced at $2.25.

BATMAN SET FOR THEATRICAL RETURN

Batman II is a definite go; the film is supposed to begin production later this year in Los Angeles (expenses and security measures made it too difficult to return to England, where ***Batman*** was filmed). **Tim Burton** is returning as the director of the film, Michael Keaton is back as Batman, **Danny DeVito** will portray the Penguin, and according to CNN, **Sean Young** (briefly cast as Vicki Vale before an equestrian accident forced the studio to replace her) will play Catwoman. According to reports, the script also includes Robin--but at least one wire service is reporting that Vicki Vale (played by **Kim Basinger** in the first film) will not be back in the second film. No release date has been set yet, but wire services report that the film is shooting for a mid-1992 debut.

NOW HERE'S A FIGHT WORTH WATCHING...

Get ready for the fight of the season this spring. The action occurs in ***Demon #12***, when The Demon Etrigan slugs it out with Lobo in a book that DC *promises* is not just a superhero cameo. In addition to violence and mayhem, DC assures readers that there will be laughs galore in this issue guest-starring DC's most popular new star of 1990-91. (If all this isn't enough, **Alan Grant** and **Val Semeiks** will also reveal some more inside poop about Klarion the Witch-Boy.) ***Demon #12***, a $1.50 comic, is scheduled for April 18th release.

TODD McFARLANE
Writer, Penciller, Inker

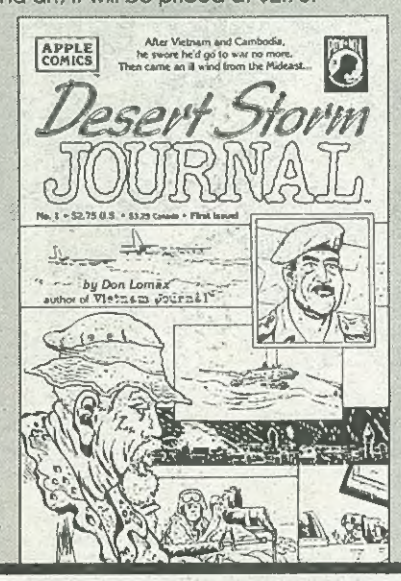
IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS

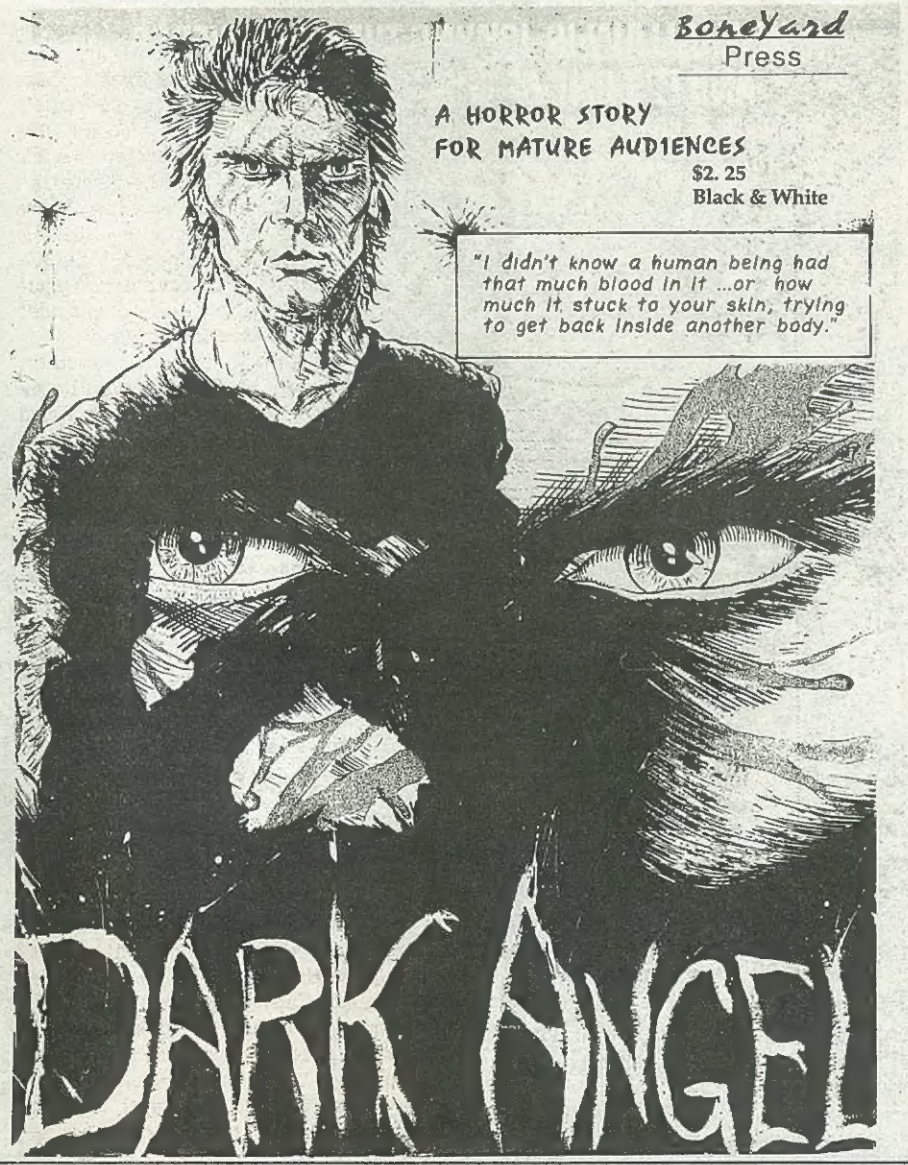
Okay, you've had baseball cards, political cards, movie and tv cards, even Desert Storm cards--but what about comic creator cards? We're not talking about comic book character cards here--we're talking about cards featuring the talents responsible for some of the best-known comics in history. People like **Howard Chaykin, Bob Kane, George Perez, John Romita, Julius Schwartz, Brian Bolland, Jim Shooter, Wally Wood, Todd McFarlane**, and over a hundred more...

Famous Comic Book Creator Cards is the latest card project from Eclipse Comics, already well-known for their shall-we-say-esoteric card sets. This is not only the largest set of cards ever offered by Eclipse (there'll be 110 different cards in this set), but it's also the first time that Eclipse has offered its cards in wax packs rather than in boxed sets. Each wax pack will contain 12 cards for 99¢. The cards will have a color photo of the creator on the front and biographical data (plus an art sample) on the back. The creators chosen range from the Golden Age to modern times, from mainstream to underground, from writer to artist to editor. Look for ***Famous Comic Book Creators Cards*** in your local comic shop in May--and you might want to talk to your local comic shop about reserving an entire box for you so that you can be sure to assemble a complete set (and tell 'em that you heard about it in ***CSN***, okay?...). Hmm; we wonder if they're going to have a Rookie of the Year card?...

DIFFERENT WAR, SAME JOURNAL

Vietnam Journal, the acclaimed series from **Don Lomax** and Apple Comics, deals with a war corespondent's grunt's-eye view of the war. In the real world, we saw that many former Vietnam reporters (such as Peter Arnett and Bob Simon) made quite a name for themselves in the Persian Gulf War--so why shouldn't the protagonist of ***Vietnam Journal*** do the same thing? That's just what he does in ***Desert Storm Journal***, a new book from Apple Comics. Once again, Don Lomax sends "Journal" around the world to bring the public an honest, accurate view of the war. While the actual fighting may have been brief, the months of tension and preparation seemed like an eternity for those who were there--and that's what Lomax intends to bring to life in the new book. ***Desert Storm Journal*** will feature 32 pages of black and white story and art; it will be priced at $2.75.


APPLE COMICS
After Vietnam and Cambodia, he swore he'd go to war no more. Then came an ill wind from the Mideast...
Desert Storm JOURNAL
by Don Lomax
author of Vietnam Journal
Desert Storm Journal™ &©1991 Don Lomax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DARK ANGEL

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Acworth, GA

GAMESBRIEFS

MARVEL'S NEW SUPER HEROES IN A BOX

Have you been trying to find a good way to tell whether the Hulk of The Thing is stronger? Well, why not just have them fight it out? After almost a year on hiatus, TSR is releasing the new revised ***Marvel Super Heroes Basic Set***. This revised edition streamlines the rules to a simpler more convenient manner of playability. The set is narrated by a host of the Marvel Super Heroes, and highlights such heroes as Spider-Man and Wolverine. The new ***Basic Set*** is completely compatible with all previously released material for the game, but many new modules are planned to be released to support the new game (the first one will feature X-Factor). The ***Marvel Super Heroes Advanced Set*** will remain the same for the time being, but there are plans for a revised version of that game to be appearing in the not too distant future--possibly in a series of hardcover books, much like the ***Advanced Dungeons and Dragons*** series. For now however, the new ***Revised Marvel Super Heroes Basic Set*** will be available sometime in April with a planned retail price of $20.00. So, go out and answer those nagging superhero questions for yourself (but our money's on the Hulk...).

WHEN YOU'RE DUNWICH THE OTHER CTHULHU MODULE...

Another classic Cthulhu remnant is making its way to Chaosium's game line this april, ***Return to Dunwich***. Loosely based on the classic **HP Lovecraft** story "The Dunwich Horror," this module ties directly in with the already released ***Arkham Unveiled***. The module details the small desolate New England town of Dunwich, complete with maps, adventure ideas, and some of the fishy personalities lurking about the town. This adventurer's dream/nightmare is $18.95.

TSR GOES BACK TO THE BASICS

Remember a few months back when TSR revised their ***AD&D*** system to the new ***Second Edition*** rules? Well, they're doing it again! Get set for the ***Second Edition Dungeons and Dragons*** this April. Before you panic, a word of explanation: none of the rules have been radically altered, but the packaging and design of the game has been totally reconstructed to allow for easier access to beginning gamers .

The new system contains a series of packets that progress the player along one step at a time so that they can more readily adapt themselves to the concept of role playing. This means that players will learn new rules as the time comes for them to learn the rules and not before then to minimize confusion. Once all of the packets have been gone through (and there are lots of packets to go through) the player will have a complete working knowledge of the ***Basic D&D*** system, levels 1-5.

Later in the year, TSR will be releasing the ***Rules Cyclopedia***, a 304 page hardcover that will replace ***Dungeons and Dragons Box Sets 2-5***, and enable players to take their characters up through level 36! To coincide with the release of the new boxed set, TSR is also releasing the ***Revised Basic Character Sheets***, with the same user-friendly design in mind.

The game itself weighs in at a hefty 1.28 lbs for only $20.00 while the character sheets provide 48 pages for only $8.95. This is bound to be one of the most talked about game revisions of the year, so don't miss out--and be sure to tell 'em you heard about it in ***CSN***, okay?...

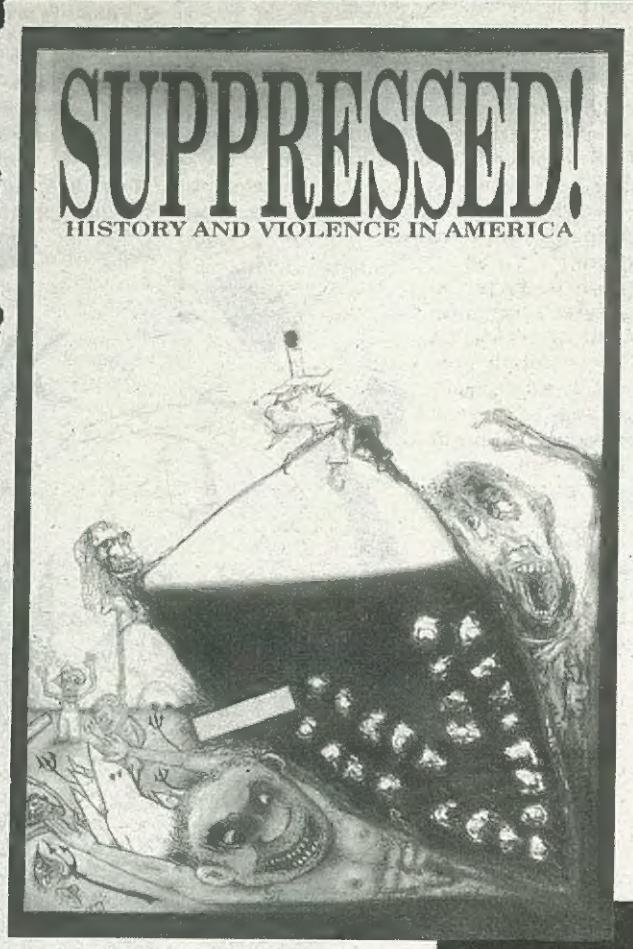
THESE BATTLETECH RECORD SHEETS SEEM JUST RIGHT

The FASA corporation is releasing a new set of ***BattleTech Record Sheets*** in April. The set consists of between 60-80 different variant Mech sheets from previously released material. The Mechs covered in these sheets aren't too aren't too heavy or too light--they're medium (and hence the title). ***The BattleMech Record Sheets #2--Mediums*** are planned at a boxed price of $8.00. All of the sheets are pre-prepared to provide instant access to new Mechs, just like set #1.

VAMPIRES, AND VIKINGS, AND GAMING, OH MY...

Looking for something new? Well, TSR is offering up two new releases in April. The first is the ***Ravenloft Monstrous Compendium***--the complete guide to monsters on the otherworldly plane of Ravenloft. The folks at TSR want to make sure that gamers are aware that the undead represented in this volume are very different from the undead used in other D&D games, plus the volume offers up new types of the undead to terrorize your heroes. ***Ravenloft*** has been one of the most popular ***AD&D*** expansions to date, and this 64 page, $10.95 volume is sure to be a monstrous success. The other new item is the ***Vikings Campaign Sourcebook***. If you've been wanting to go off in your longboat searching for new lands to conquer, or just like to wear a helmet with big horns on it, than this expansion is for you. This expansion contains factual information of the time of the vikings as well as adventure ideas and fantasy settings--including magic suitable for this genre. At $15.00, this 96 page sourcebook is sure to bring out the berserker in fans everywhere.

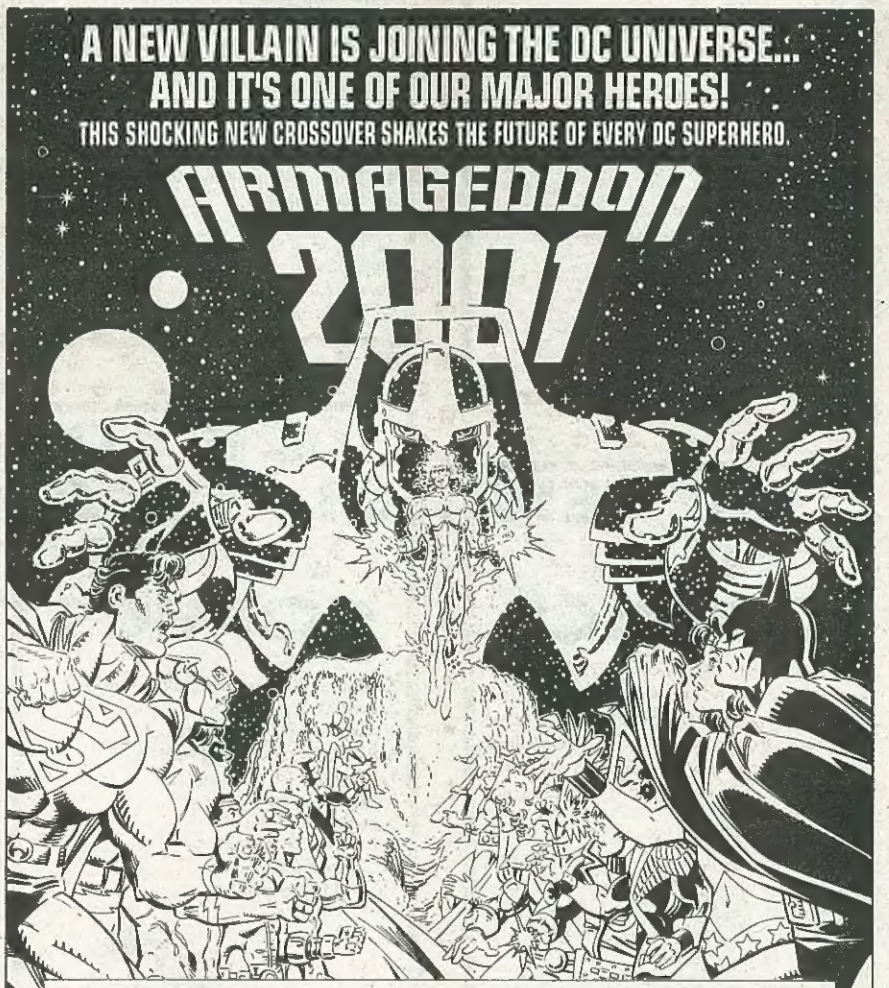
COMICS meeting ART



The history and violence of America is brought to you by creator and compiler Starlen Baxter. Featuring various artists, this series covers many subjects and areas not often taught in schools. From the first landings of Columbus to the Ku Klux Klan to the propaganda machinery of World War I, this promises a hard look at America's past.

Tome Press offers an exciting line of factual and interpretive comics based upon classic works of literature, film, historical events and biographies.

TOME PRESS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JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA ANNUAL #5
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HAWKWORLD ANNUAL #2
FLASH ANNUAL #1
ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #3
L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 ANNUAL #2
NEW TITANS ANNUAL #7
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #3
DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL #4
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ARMAGEDDON 2001 #1 AVAILABLE IN MARCH

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CSN SPOTLIGHT

CSN CHARTS

TOP 50 COMICS

CSN's Top Seller charts are based on figures supplied by the two major distributors, Diamond Distribution and Capital City Distribution, as well as figures by a cross-section of comics speciality shops. The distributor's figures represent retailer orders placed on the titles, while the information from stores represents copies sold.

1. Spider-Man 9
2. X-Men 275
3. New Mutants 100
4. Robin 4
5. Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn II 1
6. Ghost Rider 12
7. Amazing Spider-Man 346
8. Punisher War Journal 29
9. Marvel Comics Presents 73
10. Marvel Comics Presents 74
11. Darkhawk 2
12. X-Factor 65
13. Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 17
14. Wolverine 38
15. Batman 461
16. Moon Knight 25
17. What If? 24
18. Justice Society of America 1
19. Detective 628
20. Incredible Hulk 380
21. Punisher 47
22. Predator II Movie Adaptation 1
23. Doctor Strange 28
24. Excalibur 36
25. New Warriors 10
26. Web of Spider-Man 75
27. Spectacular Spider-Man 175
28. Guardians of the Galaxy 11
29. Silver Surfer 48
30. Fantastic Four 351
31. Green Lantern 11
32. Iron Man 267
33. Avengers 331
34. Captain America 384
35. Toxic Avenger 1
36. Avengers West Coast 69
37. Daredevil 291
38. Namor the sub-Mariner 13
39. Justice League America 49
40. Justice League Europe 25
41. Cloak and Dagger 17
42. Thor 431
43. Dr. Strange-Ghost Rider Special #1
44. Adventures of Superman 477
45. Action Comics 664
46. Superman 54
47. Kid Eternity 1
48. Flash 49
49. Alpha Flight 95
50. Sandman 25

TOP DOLLAR COMICS

The following comics, graphic novels and trade paperbacks were given Top Dollar ratings based on the dollar volume of the copies sold (or are expected to sell) during the late February and March sales period.

1. Spider-Man 9
2. X-Men 275
3. New Mutants 100
4. Robin 4
5. Punisher War Journal 29
6. Robin 4
7. Moon Knight 25
8. Ghost Rider 12
9. Kid Eternity 1
10. Wolverine 38
11. Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn 2
12. Marvel Comics Presents 73
13. Marvel Comics Presents 74
14. Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 17
15. Predator II Movie Adaptation 1
16. Amazing Spider-Man 346
17. Fafhrd & Gray Mouser 4
18. Darkhawk 2
19. X-Factor 65
20. What If? 24
21. Doctor Strange 28
22. Batman 461
23. Excalibur 36
24. Justice Society of America 1
25. Detective 628
26. Incredible Hulk 380
27. Punisher 47
28. Toxic Avenger 1
29. New Warriors 10
30. Web of Spider-Man 75
31. Spectacular Spider-Man 175
32. Cloak & Dagger 17
33. Dr. Strange-Ghost Rider Special 1
34. Guardians of the Galaxy 11
35. Silver Surfer 48
36. Akira 27
38. Vampire Lestat 9
39. Fantastic Four 351
40. Green Lantern 11
41. Alpha Flight 95
42. Challengers of the Unknown 2
43. Elfquest: Kings of the Broken Wheel 4
44. Iron Man 267
45. Avengers 331
46. Legion of Super-Heroes 17
48. Legion '91 26
49. Daredevil 291
50. Sandman 25

TOP TEN NON-COMICS

The Top Ten Non-Comics is based on number and not dollar value. This category includes graphic novels, hardcovers, trade paperbacks, portfolios, etc. It includes books that actually were on sale during the March sales period.

1. DC Who's Who Binder 2
2. Punisher Portfolio
3. Complete Johnny Comet
4. Overstreet Price Guide Update #16
5. Marvel Trading Cards
6. Collected Omaha Volume 4
7. Appleseed Book Two TPB
8. Taboo 4
9. Cerebus: Church & State TPB
10. Marvel Universe Poster II

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TOP 10 BLACK & WHITE COMICS

1. Elfquest: Kings of the Broken Wheel 4
2. Lone Wolf & Cub 43
3. Alien Nation: The Spartans 4
4. Alien Nation: a Breed Apart 3
5. Cerebus 143
6. Cat & Mouse 12
7. Equinox Chronicles 1
8. Dark Horse Presents 48
9. Cheval Noir 16
10. Crying Freeman 6

Crying Freeman ™ &©1991 Viz

ALL THE X-FACTS

Bob Harras

BY CLIFF BIGGERS

*For over a decade now, the **X-Men** have consistently been the most popular superhero team in comics; for most of those years, the **X-Men** have also been the best-selling comic book, so much so that at least one distributor ranks a book's sales index by comparing it to **X-Men** orders for the same month. In the 1980's, the X-Men spun off several titles--**X-Factor, New Mutants, Alpha Flight** (who first appeared in **X-Men** 120-121), Wolverine, and **Excalibur**, as well as several miniseries--until they became a virtual line of titles on their own.*

*So whose has the job of coordinating the most popular team books at Marvel? Bob Harras, that's who. Bob is the editor of **The Uncanny X-Men, X-Force** (the title replacing New Mutants, recently cancelled at the peak of its popularity), **X-Factor, Wolverine**, and the upcoming new book simply entitled **X-Men**. In spite of the tremendous work load involved in planning the launch of two major new first issues in the next few months, Bob took a little time to talk to **CSN** about what mutant fans can look forward to when **X-Force** and **X-Men** debut.*

What's the relationship of the Uncanny X-Men title and the new X-Men book?

Well, the plan is like this: when we decided to do an ***X-Men #1***,Chris, Jim, Whilce and I talked about it, and we liked the idea of the original X-Men joining the team. That, of course, meant there were going to be a heck of a lot of characters in the book; so what we decided to do, because the mutant menace was so great, was to have Professor Xavier form an X-Men "A" team and an X-Men "B" team--not A or B in any sense of power or ability, but simply to designate the fact that you'll have two different strike forces to deal with different menaces. Really, it all revolved around my decision to return the original X-Men characters into the book. Both books will be X-Men books, but the characters will be divided into different squads. Xavier will appear in both books, They'll both be based at Xavier's school, and there will be some interaction, but they'll definitely be sent on different missions, with different jobs to handle at the same time.

If the members of one team do appear in the other team's book, they'll be background characters, because I want both books to be pretty independent from the beginning. Since they are all X-Men, though, there'll be some interaction by necessity--but it won't be such a complex interwoven storyline that you'll have to buy both to know what's going on. The storyline *won't* begin in ***Uncanny X-Men,*** continue into ***X-Men,*** and jump back and forth for months at a time like that.

With the original members of X-Men rejoining the group, where does this leave the future of X-Factor?

X-Factor is being taken over by Peter David and Larry Stroman; because of Scott and company moving over to X-Men, Xavier will realize that there's still a need for a publicly known group that draws attention away from what the X-Men are doing. So Xavier, along with Val Cooper--who no longer has mutant fighting forces, which we'll explain in the annuals, because with the death of Mystique, Freedom Force is going to revert to type and go off on their own ways--they're going to gather together a group of mutants to take over the public mantle of Freedom Force and X-Factor. They're going to combine the teams into one group, X-Factor, which will consist of Havok, who's the leader, and--this is only a partial list right now-- Multiple Man, Lorna Dane, Rahne, the character called Guido who's been appearing in the ***X-Men*** books, and another guy who is going to be a bit of a surprise--he's been involved in the world of mutants for quite a while, although not necessarily in the ***X-Men*** books.

Peter has turned in his first plot; it's a different story approach for the mutants. That's why I wanted Peter on the book; I wanted a different slant, and he' given it to us. We start with a kind of a bang with his first issue, and it ends in a real cliffhanger.

Are the mutant titles going to specialize in grand storyline,s as they've done in the past?

I don't want to *limit* ***X-Men*** titles to grand stories. That's something that we all agree on. I want to do some more personal stories as well, stories that let us get to know, say, Storm better--to me she's been so isolated for such a long time that we need to know what she thinks. That sort of story is something that Peter really excels in in books like ***The Incredible Hulk***, so I'm sure you'll see some of that approach in ***X-Factor*** as well. I think

X-Men Classics ™ &©1991 Marvel Comics

CSN SPOTLIGHT

that's what he's going to go for in *X-Factor,* but at the same time, if a grand story comes up, I think he'll go for it.

X-Force has a different approach: Cable has an attitude that we have to deal with problems before they deal with us. The first storyline will involve Black Tom, Cassie, and the Juggernaut--those are the first villains that X-Force goes up against. They're basically a strike force; they're grown up now, and it's time for them to get out there and do things. They can't just sit in school and train all the time.

Cable's attitude is much more militant than Xavier's. Xavier has the dream of getting people together, while Cable is interesting in "getting them before they get us."

We've gotten a very positive response to *New Mutants #100.* When Cable was introduced in the book, you could sense that we had something major here; letters indicated that we were on the right track. When we made the decision to end the book with *New Mutants #100,* we said, "well, we're either going to get cursed at, or they're going to think that we've done something really great." Letters indicate that readers are excited about the change.

There's also the problem with a book entitled *New Mutants;* I have trouble justifying a *New Mutants #101,* because it's hard to see how people who've had 101 adventures can still be *"new* mutants." So I said, "Why don't we have them graduate and move into the world?" It seems to have paid off--but I don't think anyone has ever cancelled a successful book before, not a book whose sales were climbing with every issue.

We felt, here in the office, that it made story sense. Of course, it also helps that now the mutant titles will begin with *X,* but that wasn't the reason for it--we came up with the name after we made the decision to change the book.It felt like the right thing to do with the characters.

Are there going to be changes in Wolverine's book as well?

When Larry Hama came on with *Wolverine,* we decided to try to tie in a little more with the *X-Men* books. We don't want to tie in *too* much, because we don't want to get stuck in a situation where we have to think, "My god, Wolverine's on Jupiter this month in *X-Men,* so he has to be on Jupiter in his own comic as well." We're going to have more stories featuring mutant characters, since fans seem to want that. Forge and Jubilee will be showing up, Cable's going to appear in the book. The storylines will be naturals for *Wolverine;* for instance, Wolverine's going to search in the Morlock tunnels to make sure that Sabretooth is really dead which is something he would really do. We're also going to be dealing with aspects of his origins, based on what's going on in the Barry Windsor-Smith storyline in *Marvel Comics Presents*; it's time for fans to find out a little more about Wolverine's background. We want to show some things that have happened to Wolverine--and to hint that there are still many things that we don't know anything about.

Wolverine is a sort of overlooked title in the mutant family; people talk about *X-Men,* then they mention *X-Factor* and *New Mutants.* It takes them a while to get to *Wolverine,* since it's a solo book in with all the team books; I think it's a very good book, though, and I think more fans are going to notice that in the next few months.

There must be an awful lot of co-ordination between you and the various creators of these titles. How much planning is involved, and how is it done?

What we do with these books is pretty informal; a few months ago, my assistant and I went out to California with Chris and we met with Jim and Whilce and we shot the breeze for two days. Ideas came up, some of them were shot down, and others were brought in to the plan. When Jim and Whilce were brought on to the books, they were bursting with ideas; Chris welcomed that, because everyone needs new input. When you have artists with a lot of ideas, a good writer can incorporate them and move into new directions.

I'm the guy who finally says, "Okay, we'll go this way." Sometimes one guy may hate me and another guy may love me, but we all work together from there and turn out quality books. I think we're a lot less structured in terms of planning and co-ordination than, from what I've heard, the Superman titles at DC; we just get on the phone and yak a lot and come up with a plan from there.

Chris Claremont has the longest run of any single writer on a title at Marvel; there may have been some writers in the 1950's who worked on more issues of a single title, but I can't think of anyone at Marvel who's ever done more individual issues of one book than Chris has. I respect that, and what he has to say about the X-Men is very important--but he also has a great deal of respect for the artists, and he listens to them.

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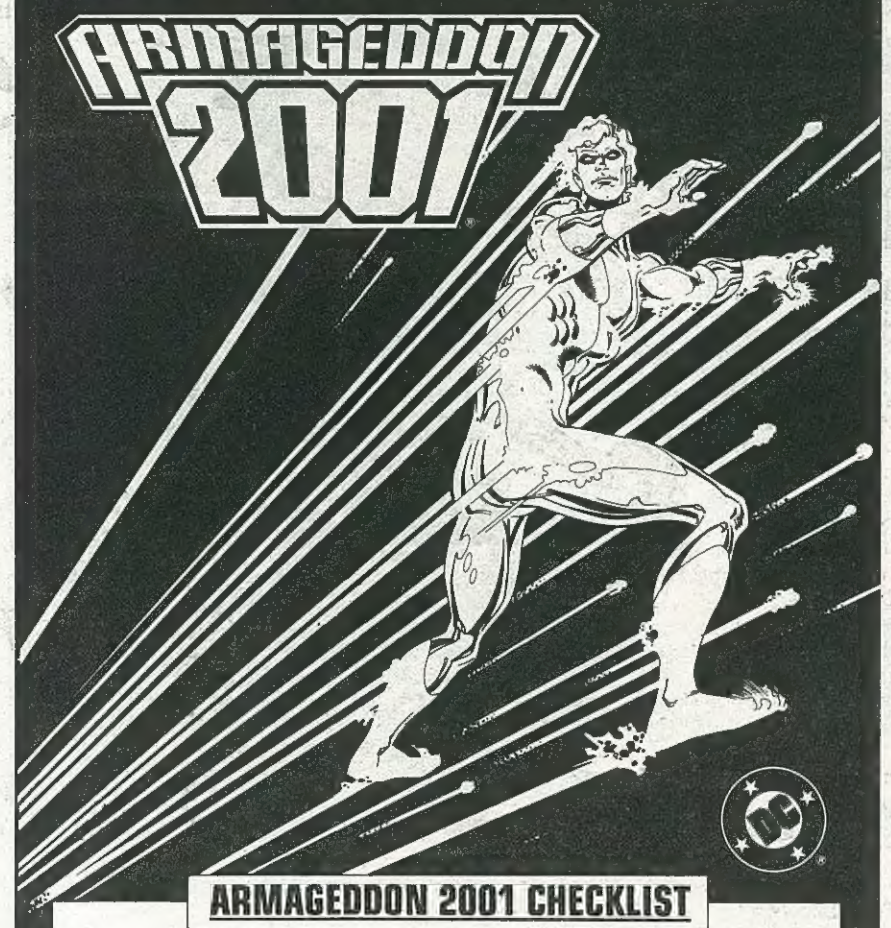
RIDE THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE...
READ DC's EXPLOSIVE NEW SUMMER CROSSOVER



ARMAGEDDON 2001 CHECKLIST

ARMAGEDDON 2001 #1
SUPERMAN ANNUAL #3
BATMAN ANNUAL #15
JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA ANNUAL #5
HAWK & DOVE ANNUAL #2
HAWKWORLD ANNUAL #2
FLASH ANNUAL #1
ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #3
L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 ANNUAL #2
NEW TITANS ANNUAL #7
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #3
DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL #4
JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE ANNUAL #2
ARMAGEDDON 2001 #2

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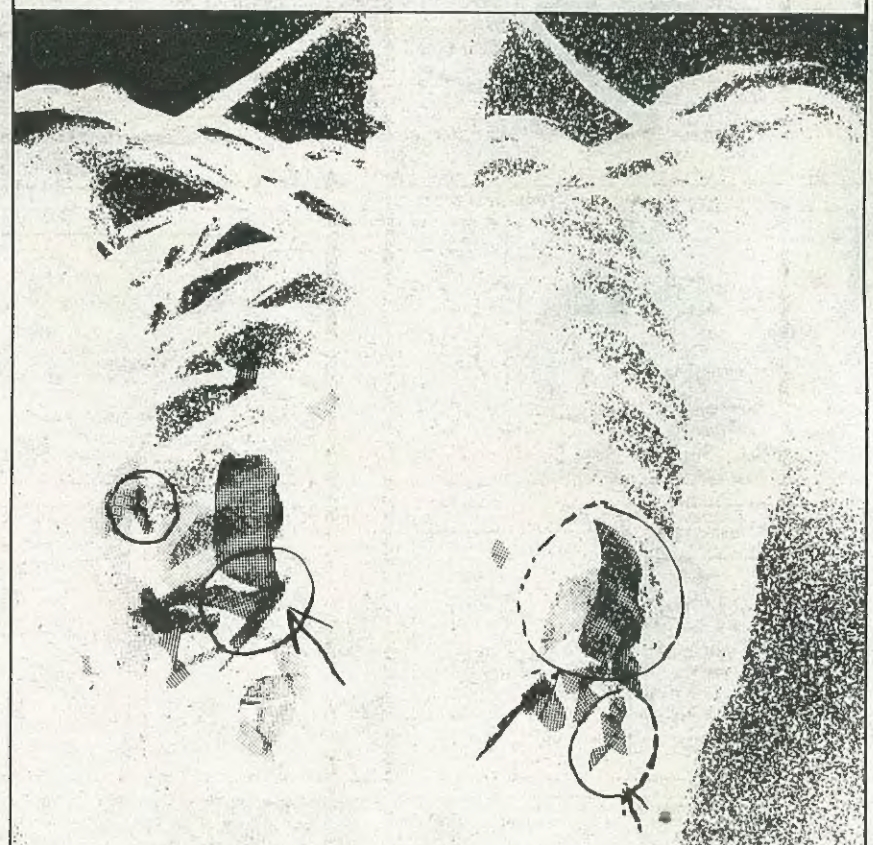
DYNA-RAY FILM SUPPLIES

Patient Name: John Constantine
X-Ray Results: Aggravated Lung Cancer
Diagnosis: Terminal



THIS IS ONE DEMON HE NEVER EXPECTED

JOHN CONSTANTINE HELLBLAZER ™

DANGEROUS HABITS a six-part story beginning in HELLBLAZER #41.

Introducing the creative team of Garth Ennis, Will Simpson, Mark Pennington, and Tom Canty.

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CSN SPOTLIGHT

Did you initiate the move to shorter story cycles?

The move to shorter story cycles was a group decision; we really *do* read all the mail, and we began to get a sense that fans thought things were getting too long, too drawn out. Jim and Whilce both like shorter stories, and Chris agreed with it. The long stories have been the X-Men's strength, but they can also be the X-Men's weakness, so you have to find a balance. To be honest, there were times when I would get confused as to where the stories were going. We just sat down and decided to readjust some things. There was no edict from above saying "Do short stories," though. These are characters and books that we care about, and we wanted to move them back into their number one positions again.

Do you try to coordinate what goes on in Excalibur, which you don't edit, so that there's some continuity?

Excalibur is the mutant book that's pretty much out of touch with the other books, doing its own thing. Terry Kavanagh is the editor of that, and he does his own thing with that book. We do know, though, that we have to deal with Kitty and Nightcrawler learning that the X-Men are still alive; it has to be reconciled at some point. That right there is evidence that storylines have been going on too long: that's something that should have been dealt with a long time ago, but wasn't. That's the one problem we have to deal with, but otherwise, it's an independent title that we don't really try to coordinate.

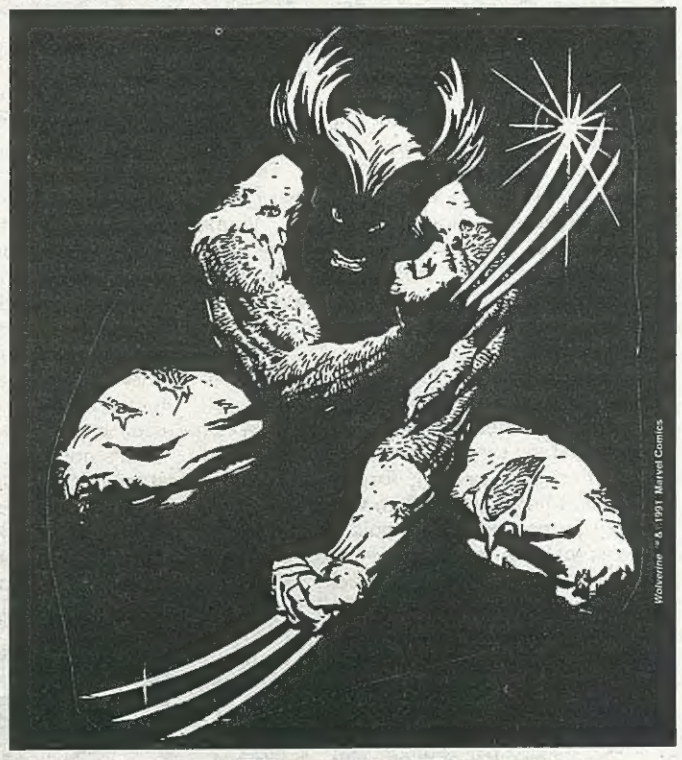
What's happening with the mutant annuals this year?

The *New Warriors Annual* is a part of the mutant annual story cycle this year. I like the shorter story cycles; every annual having to tie in to one story was a cumbersome process, and it just didn't work as well as any of us would like. This way, we can do shorter four-part stories, and that works just fine.

The New Warriors is a new title, and someone--I don't know if it was Danny Fingeroth, Fabian Nicieza, or Tom DeFalco--said that it would be interesting to link these new heroes in with the mutants. The *New Warriors-New Mutants* link seemed obvious; one of them is a truly new team, and the other is a new team that's ready to graduate. I thought it could work pretty well; I said, "okay, sure, let's do it!"

The events of the mutant annuals take place before the new *X-Men* book starts, but the real lead-in to the new *X-Men* book kicks off in *X-Men #278*; from there it goes into *X-Factor*, then into *X-Men* again, then into the new book. The annual storyline will tie in with all of this, though.

While storylines are certainly vitally important, art plays a major role in the popularity of the mutant titles. You seem to have latched onto some extremely talented artists in Silvestri, Lee, Liefeld, and Portacio, and now you have Larry Stroman coming onto X-Factor. How'd you choose him?



BATMAN™

by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

THE RIDDLER'S TRAP IS SPRUNG, LEAVING TRAGEDY IN ITS WAKE!
COMMISSIONER!
WHILE, ACROSS TOWN IN GOTHAM AUDITORIUM, A COMPUTER TRADE SHOW IS ABOUT TO OPEN...
COMPUTER CONVENTION
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
JUST TWELVE HOURS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE GOTHAM COMPUTER TRADE SHOW...
SKREE
SKREE
I DID IT! NOW I'LL DISCONNECT THE ALARMS AND...
NOW, NOW... THAT WOULD BE ILLEGAL!
HOW DID YOU...?
SOLVE YOUR RIDDLE? I REALIZED THAT BY 'DVORAK' YOU REFERRED NOT TO THE COMPOSER...
BUT TO A LESS COMMON ARRANGEMENT OF KEYS ON A TYPEWRITER!
AND IF "PILLAGE IS SPELLED WITH A 'Y'" THEN THAT WAS THE KEY YOU WERE HIDING UNDER...
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME!
GIVE IT UP, RIDDLER!
NEVER! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO BE A STAR!
EXPERTLY, BATMAN BLOCKS A PUNCH, BUT THEN...
A WILD PUNCH HE CAN'T PREDICT!
UHHHH!
A WILD PUNCH LANDS ON THE BATMAN'S UNHEALED WOUND...
UHHH!
THE PAIN IS OVERWHELMING...
WAIT! I DIDN'T MEAN IT...!
I... KNOCKED OUT THE BATMAN!
I GUESS NOBODY EVER THOUGHT OF JUST HITTING HIM BEFORE!
I KNOW BATMAN TOLD ME TO STAY AT HOME...
BUT I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING...
OH, NO!

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES™

SOMEONE'S APPROACHING THE TREE...!
CAN YA SEE 'IM?
GREAT OOGLY-MOOGLY...!
HMMM... I WONDER WHAT THE CREATURE IS SAYING...?
MAYBE IT'S PRAYING FOR A BIG BOWL OF CAT CHOW.
SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF
THE DUDE'S PICKED UP OUR SCENT...!
REMAIN STILL.
BETCHA HE SMELLS YOUR FEET...!
HSSS!
UT-OH!
HE'S GOT OUR SCENT!
HSSS!
STRANGE... THE CAT TURNS AND FLEES...!
MAYBE HE'S NEVER SMELLED A RAT AS BIG AS YOU, MASTER.
GUESS AGAIN, MIKEY...!
SO... IT IS NOT THE RAT THAT THE CAT FLEES FROM...
GRRR
GRR
SNARL
CLARRAIN LAWSON BERGER KELLEHER
...IT IS THE DOG!
WOOF.
GREEN TIP™
EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY
DON'T LET THOSE HELIUM BALLOONS FLY AWAY!
HELIUM-FILLED BALLOONS--THE TYPE THAT FLOAT UP, UP AND AWAY SHOULD YOU LET THEM GO--MAY HARM FISH AND ANIMALS WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY FALL BACK TO EARTH, ESPECIALLY IF THEY FALL INTO THE OCEAN. SOME CREATURES LIKE SEA TURTLES MISTAKE BALLOONS FOR JELLYFISH. WHEN AN ANIMAL EATS A BALLOON, IT CAN DIE. SO, NEXT TIME YOU'RE CELEBRATING WITH A HELIUM BALLOON, DON'T LET GO!
YOU CAN WRITE TO THE TURTLES C/O THIS NEWSPAPER.

CSN SPOTLIGHT

Larry Stroman's art style is very much in the style of Jim Lee and Whilce Portacio; when I got Jim to do *X-Men*, it was the result of a year's worth of effort on my part before he finally agreed to do it. Then I got Whilce, and I was very happy with the look of those books; they have a unique approach, but there's a similar style in those two artists' work.

When I knew that I needed another artist because of the new book, which Whilce would be moving over to illustrate, I looked at Larry Stroman's work. I had seen his work and I liked it; I also used the interns' reaction here at Marvel as a gauge--the interns often give me a good sense of the what fan reaction might be--and they were very excited about Larry's art. Larry's the newest member of our team, so I know him the least right now, but I think he's going to bring a strong look to *X-Factor* that'll mesh well with the other X-books.

Jim Lee has become so popular so fast that it's just amazing. Jim was in Oakland last weekend and he said it was positively embarrassing, the fan reaction and all.

Jim Lee's work is so popular that Marvel is already doing an oversized poster-book of some of his covers and full-page pieces. I didn't actually the pieces for the *Jim Lee Poster Book*, but I did give them some suggestions. I've just seen the new cover for the poster book, and it's sensational.

MINUTES LATER...
YEAH, THAT SURE LOOKS LIKE THE ONE.
PUT A "5" ON ITS CHEST, AND IT'S A DEAD RINGER.
THEN YOU WERE RIGHT, HAVOK.
WE ARE UP AGAINST ONE OR MORE MARK II SENTINELS.
A SENTINEL'S A SENTINEL, SWEETHEART...
X-Men ™ & © 1991 Marvel Comics

Will any of the mutant titles go biweekly this year?

The only one of my titles that'll be going biweekly this year is *Wolverine*--thank God! It really is an amazing strain to do biweekly books, particularly when you're juggling several of them. Of course, fans really have a defacto biweekly *X-Men* on a permanent basis now, with the new title.

Wolverine will have two three-part stories rather than one six-parter in the biweekly issues. One will deal with Sabretooth and Wolverine, giving us some information that will reflect on his origins; Larry and I are still talking about the second three-parter. Marc Silvestri will illustrate three of them, then Andy Kubert will come in to help Marc for the other three.

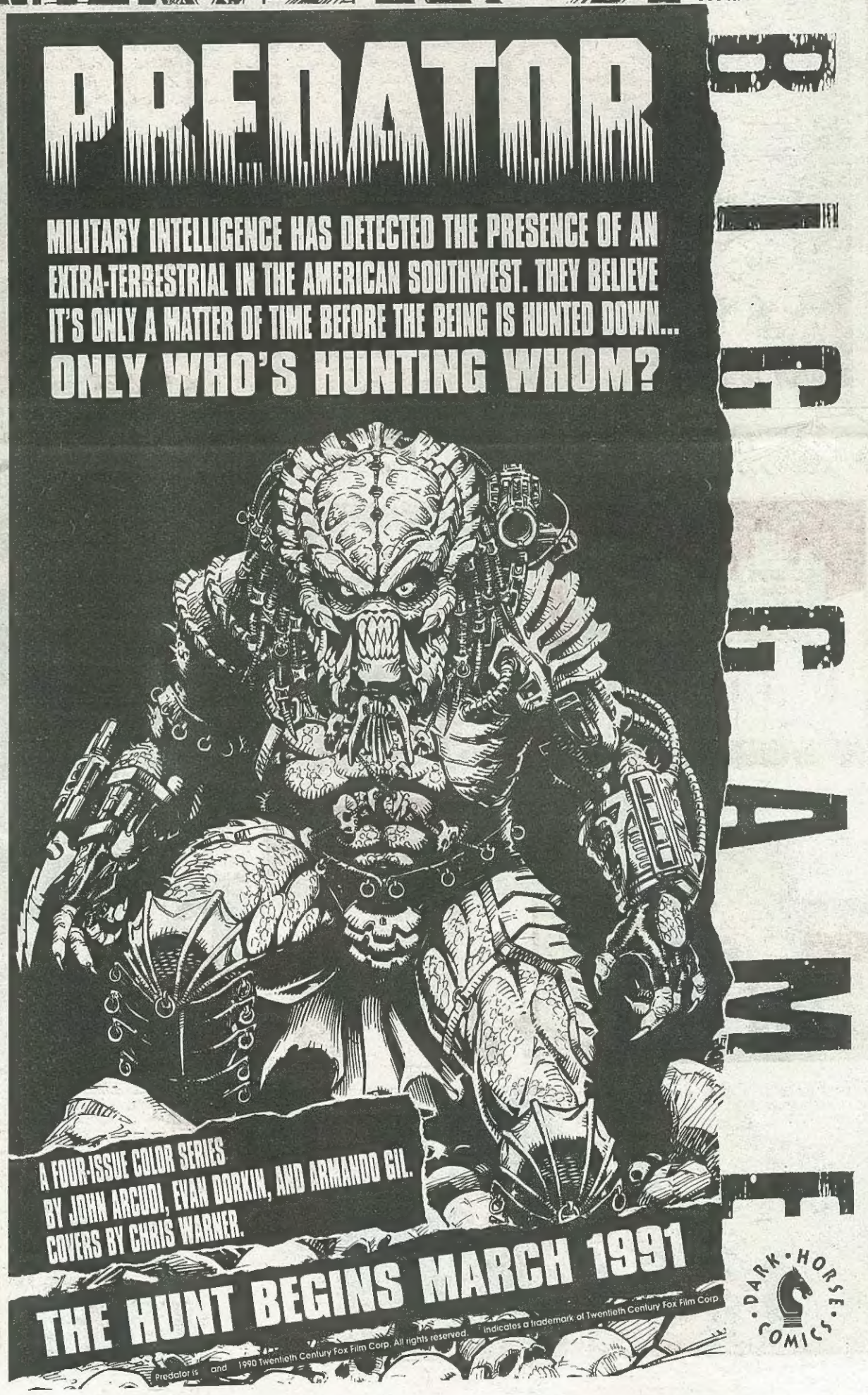
Many people are predicting that this will be the year when the X-Men move back into the top position after being knocked out of number one for a while by Batman and Spider-Man. Why do you think that's likely to occur?

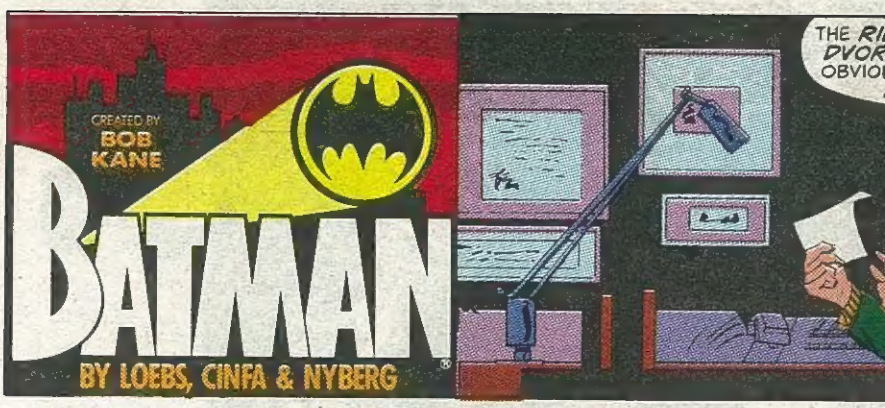
There's a lot of enthusiasm now. Sometimes books get into a stage where you end up coasting for a while. Chris and I were thinking that we were doing fine, then we looked at each other one day and said, "It's time for a change." We're started doing different things--new creators, shorter stories,a bi-fold cover, a double-sized issue. We were getting really enthused again, and we figured that our enthusiasm reflects the readers' enthusiasm for these books--if we're excited about what we're doing, odds are the readers will be as well.

There are some rumors about *X-Men #1* having four different covers, one a week for four weeks, but that's not my decision. I'm present at the meetings where that sort of a decision is finally made, but it doesn't originate with me. We've talked about it, and it looks very possible, but it isn't definite yet. I've talked with Jim about it, though, and we've decided that if we do that, with four different cover illustrations for the same book, each edition will have some new material inside as well--perhaps new pin-ups in the back, so that each edition is unique in some other way than just different covers.

We have a few other innovative ideas on the drawing board, but we don't have anything definite ready to announce yet. We want to create the same sort of fan enthusiasm that we used to see for X-Men. Some of the projects we have in mind require some complicated considerations for packaging and such, so we haven't worked out those kinks.

We're really trying to do exciting stuff; we're very competitive here, and we want the attention back on this office again. We gave the *Spider-Man* books a chance to shine last year, but we want the attention back on us where it belongs!... Seriously, we're looking forward to pushing the *X-Men* back to the top of the heap again, and we think fans are really going to enjoy it when they see it.

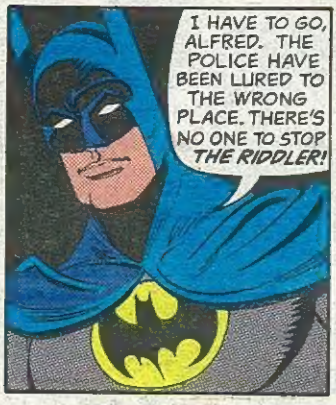

PREDATOR
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HAS DETECTED THE PRESENCE OF AN EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST. THEY BELIEVE IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE BEING IS HUNTED DOWN...
ONLY WHO'S HUNTING WHOM?
A FOUR-ISSUE COLOR SERIES
BY JOHN ARCUDI, EVAN DORKIN, AND ARMANDO GIL.
COVERS BY CHRIS WARNER.
THE HUNT BEGINS MARCH 1991
DARK HORSE COMICS
Predator is and 1990 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp. All rights reserved. indicates a trademark of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp.


CREATED BY
BOB KANE
BATMAN
BY LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THE RI
DVOR
OBVIOU

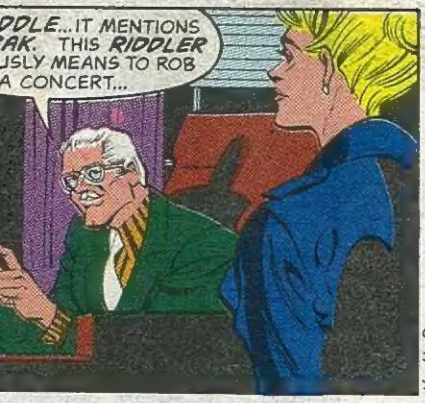
THERE ARE THREE LIKELY PLACES FOR THE RIDDLER TO STRIKE...

"BUT THE CHARITY CONCERT TONIGHT WOULD BE THE MOST TEMPTING... AND YVES PILAGE IS SPELLED WITH A "Y"!"
BOX MUSIC
MUSIC of DVORAK CONDUCTED BY YVES PILAGE

WITH A GIANT, OLD-FASHIONED TYPEWRITER ON DISPLAY.
BUT, SIR, YOUR WOUND ISN'T HEALED YET!


I HAVE TO GO, ALFRED. THE POLICE HAVE BEEN LURED TO THE WRONG PLACE. THERE'S NO ONE TO STOP THE RIDDLER!

AND
ACROS
TOWN.
MUSIC of DVORAK CONDUCTED BY YVES PILAGE
9/17



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